

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A system for preventing the deformation of sails, ~~such as jibs in particular~~, which are mounted on reels, comprising means (14; 20) designed to fashion an additional volume in the central part of the reel, characterized in that the sail mounted on said reel is non-deformable in compression around the reel and parallel to its ~~hoist side luff~~, and in that it is produced from a fabric comprising transverse and longitudinal fibers (18, 18') resistive to compression and local buckling, this fabric being incorporated between two films (17, 17') of ~~fine fabrie~~, the whole then being bonded.
2. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said films (17, 17') of ~~fine fabrie~~ are films of ethylene glycol polyterephthalate.
3. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the means designed to fashion an additional volume in the central part of the reel consists of a biconical reel (14), ~~possibly reinforced for torsion~~.

4. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the sail comprises slats (16) stitched into it, parallel to its ~~hoist side luff~~.

5. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said reel is protected by a fairing (22) forming an aerofoil.

6. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that this fairing (22) ~~may be~~ is of cylindrical, conical or biconical shape.

7. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that said fairing (22) comprises, on its inside, a protruding part in the form of a spoiler (23) which presses against the sail (21).

8. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that said fairing (22) comprises, on its inside, a protruding part in the form of a spoiler (23) which presses against the sail (21).